

Is There a Persianate Modernity?

Friday, January 28, 2022, 10:00 - 5:00pm (PT)

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

About the Symposium

All sessions will take place via Zoom.

<https://bit.ly/Jan28-Persianate>

This symposium features emerging literary scholarship working across and beyond the framework of national literature in order to examine the histories of literary modernity that took place under different names and yet drew on shared vocabulary across the Persianate world around the turn of the twentieth century. The past decade has witnessed the emergence of a growing conversation around the 'Persianate world,' an expanse of Eurasia defined by shared Persian aesthetic, literary, and moral forms (*adab*) which served as a field of connection and exchange from roughly the ninth to the nineteenth centuries. Some have conceived of the Persianate as a zone of connectivity tied to the cultural/literary capital of Persian language, while others have taken *adab* and a shared Persian literary canon to be the locus of the Persianate.

Bringing together scholars working across Persian, Arabic, Ottoman Turkish, Urdu, Armenian, and other languages, this symposium moves the conversation around the Persianate forward in time to address questions of literary modernity. How can the shared textual traditions of the Persianate offer an alternative model to the framework of comparison rooted in European national literatures? What happened to the interconnected, multilingual Persianate zone and its shared intellectual vocabulary in the wake of modern literature? How did the politics of disaffiliation and national distinction shape literary form and language ideology in the Persianate long nineteenth century?

Organizers:

Mehtap Özdemir (Postdoctoral Fellow, Università di Bologna)

Maryam Fatima (Comparative Literature, University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

Alexander Jabbari (Persian Language & Literature, University of Oklahoma)

Aria Fani (Persian & Iranian Studies, UW)

Speakers and Discussants:

Andrew Amstutz (Modern South Asian History, University of Arkansas at Little Rock)

Fatima Burney (English, University of California, Merced)

Jennifer Dubrow (Asian Languages & Literatures, UW)

Aria Fani (Persian & Iranian Studies, UW)

Maryam Fatima (Comparative Literature, University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

Purnima Dhavan (History, UW)

Samuel Hodgkin (Comparative Literature, Yale University)

Alexander Jabbari (Persian Language & Literature, University of Oklahoma)

Sam Kigar (Religion, Spirituality & Science, University of Puget Sound)

Selim Kuru (Near Eastern Languages & Civilization, UW)

Mehtap Özdemir (Postdoctoral Fellow, Università di Bologna)

Levi Thompson (Persian & Arabic, University of Texas, Austin)

Event Co-Sponsors:

Persian & Iranian Studies Program in the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilization and the Humanities Division, College of Arts and Sciences

10:00am **Panel 1**

Discussant: Jennifer Dubrow (Asian Languages & Literatures, UW)

Alexander Jabbari (Persian Language & Literature, University of Oklahoma)

“The Sound of Persianate Modernity: Gendered Soundscapes in Modern Iran”

Andrew Amstutz (Modern South Asian History, University of Arkansas at Little Rock)

and Maryam Fatima (Comparative Literature, University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

“Fashioning a Persianate Offspring for Modern India: The Case of Urdu,

1890s-1940s”

11:30am **Lunch**

12:30pm **Panel 2**

Discussant: Sam Kigar (Religion, Spirituality & Science, University of Puget Sound)

Levi Thompson (Persian & Arabic, University of Texas, Austin)

“*Binā*: A Foundation for Comparative Study of the Late Persianate”

Aria Fani (Persian & Iranian, UW)

“The Shadow Texts of Persianate Modernity”

Mehtap Özdemir (Postdoctoral Fellow, Università di Bologna)

“Moral Ambiguity and Hermeneutic Politics in Ottoman/Turkish”

2:00pm **Tea Break**

2:20pm **Panel 3**

Discussant: Selim Kuru (Near Eastern Languages & Civilization, UW)

Fatima Burney (English, University of California, Merced)

“Who’s Afraid of the Materialists?: The Green of Indo-Muslim Romanticism and Persianate Debates on Nature”

Samuel Hodgkin (Comparative Literature, Yale University)

“The Poetics of Persianate Disaffiliation: Recusative Gestures for a Royal Genre”

4:00pm **Reflections**

Moderator: Purnima Dhavan (History, UW)

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